

**Board of Public Education**

**Education and Local Government  
Interim Committee**

**Role and Duties of the  
Board of Public Education**

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## **Board of Public Education Overview**

The Board of Public Education consists of seven voting members, a K-12 student member, and three ex-officio members. The Board is established by Article X Section 9 of the Montana Constitution, to exercise general supervision over the K-12 public education system. Board members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate to serve seven-year terms. The Board typically meets 6 times a year to conduct business as the Board of Public Education and two times a year with the Montana Board of Regents as the Board of Education.

The Primary Board of Public Education Role and Duties:

1. Effect a uniform system for teacher, administrator, and specialist licensure:
  - Adopt administrative rules for teacher, administrator, and specialist licensure.
  - Conduct hearings to consider material non-performance issues, denial, suspension, or revocation of educator licenses.
2. Adopt accreditation standards for Montana's schools:
  - Adopt administrative rules for the accreditation of P-12 schools and post-secondary teacher preparation programs.
3. Establish the accreditation status of all accredited P-12 schools and post-secondary teacher preparation programs in Montana.
4. Administer and order the distribution of the BASE aid to schools.
5. Adopt administrative rules for student assessment in all public schools.
6. Adopt policies for the conduct of special education and gifted and talented programs.
7. Adopt and enforce policies to provide uniform standards and regulations for school buses.
8. Serve as the school board of the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind.
9. Establish criteria for teachers to participate in the Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program.

**Board of Public Education's**  
**Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council**

The Montana Legislature established the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council in 1987 to conduct research and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on licensure issues pertaining to teachers, administrators, and specialists; professional standards and ethical conduct; the status and efficacy of approved teacher education programs in Montana; and policies related to the denial, suspension, and revocation of educator licensure and the licensure appeals process. The Board of Public Education appoints its members. The council consists of seven members who serve three-year terms.

**Duties of the Council**

- Conducts comprehensive reviews and recommends periodic updates to all the Montana educator licensure rules and the Montana professional educator preparation program standards.
- Serves as the review panel for all Class 8 Dual Credit Post-secondary Faculty Licensure applications.
- Adopts and maintains the Montana Professional Educator Code of Ethics.
- Assists the Board in establishing standards and policies on suspension, denial, and revocation of educator licensure.
- Researches strategies to improve recruitment and retention of teachers, administrators, and specialists.

**Council Membership**

- One elementary teacher (K-8)
- One secondary teacher (9-12)
- One additional teacher representative from any of the above categories
- One school administrator
- One school district trustee
- One faculty member from an approved teacher education program offered by an accredited teacher education institution
- One specialist or K-12 specialist

## Board of Public Education follow-up Items from the 2013 Legislature

House Joint Resolution 14:

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO INCLUDE THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A FINANCIAL LITERACY COURSE AS A REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION.

Dennis Parman and I met with HJ 14 sponsor, Representative Tom Jacobson, and a group of supporters of financial literacy education on May 9, in Helena. A follow-up meeting with Representative Jacobson is being scheduled.

Legislative Audit Committee, School Transportation Funding and Safety Audit Report:

This audit report contains a recommendation that the Board of Public Education work with OPI and stakeholder groups to establish standards to define good moral character for school bus drivers. The School Transportation Funding and Safety Audit Report will be presented to the Board of Public Education at the July BPE meeting.